Export Oriented Units which can boost the foreign exchange earning of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of industry the items to be produced and the country to which it will be exported; and

(c) if no such survey has been conducted, what is the manner in which Government propose to boost the climate for export oriented units in the country, particularly, for the medium scale industries and small scale sector in which cases, it is not possible to ascertain the details about world wide demand of the items that can be exported from our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The EOU Scheme aims to provide an internationally competitive, duty free environment for export production at low cost. Entrepreneure can seek assistance of Commodity Councils, Boards etc. and Indian Missions abroad in ascertaining market opportunities for items proposed to be manufactured under the EOU Scheme. A number of modifications have been affected in the Scheme since 1991 with a view to improve the climate for Export Oriented Units.

Impact of changes in Exim policy

698. SHRI F. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent changes in exim policy have not benefited the small exporters and the small-scale industries; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to revise the policy to help the small-scale sector ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) For the purpose of recognition as Export House, Trading House and Star Trading House, double weightage is given to physical export of products manufactured by Small Scale Industries (SST), handloom and handicrafts including sports goods, hand-knotted carpets and silk products. Further, under Duty Exemption Scheme, SSI unit exporting its own manufactured products, is required to execute a legal undertaking or bank guarantee equivalent to half of the normal amount of BG|LUT.

Export of Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals

699. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of basic chemicals and pharmaceuticals to Rupee Currency Area has virtually come to a halt during the first half of the current year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor,

(c) what were the exports achieved during the corresponding period last year to the RCA; and

(d) what were the exports made to General Currency Area during the last year and the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. The total exports of the Basic Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals including Fine Chemicals during April-September, 1991 was Rs. 638.48 crores, out of which Rs. 146.65 crores was to RCA countries whereas in April-September, 1992 the total exports was Rs. 708.13 crores, out of which Rs. 34.24 crores was to RCA countries. This itself reflects that the exports to RCA countries have substantially come down but not to a halt.

(b) The reasons that could be attributed for the downward trend are (i) non-availability of funds, (ii) re-organisation of purchasing pattern, i.e. instead of buying by the centralised Agencies in the past for theh entire USSR, now each counry and the Fcderation buying individually, depending upon the funds, need and consumption pattern.

(c) For April-September, 1991 the exports to RCA countries was Rs. 146.65 crores.

(d) The exports made to GCA during 1991-92 were 1159.33 crores and 1992-93 Rs. 1039.97 crores (for April-December, 1992).

(SOURCE : Foreign Trade Statistics of India, DGCI&S, Calcutta)

700. [*Transferred to 13th May, 1993*]

भारतीय व्यापार संवर्धन संस्थान में चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के रिक्त पद

701. **श्री मूल चन्द मीणा :**

श्री वी. नारायणसामी :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन भारतीय व्यापार सवर्धन संस्थान में चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारियों के कितने पद रिक्त पड़े हुए हैं ;

(ख) इनमें से अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के व्यक्तियों के लिए कितने पद आरक्षित हैं; और

(ग) इन पदों को अभी तक न भर पाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) से (ग) भारत व्यापार संवर्धन संगठन में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के 59 पद रिक्त पड़े हैं । इनमें से 39 (अनु. जाति के लिए 19 तथा अनु. जन जाति श्रेणी के लिए (20) पद अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए आरक्षित हैं । इन आरक्षित पदों को भरने के लिए विशेष भर्ती अभियान के तहत एक विज्ञापन दिया जा चुका है ।

Trade with East European Countries

702. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of steps taken by Government to boost Indian trade with East European countries and countries which formed parts of the erstwhile Soviet Union ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : The various steps taken, on an ongoing basis, to boost Indian trade with East European countries and countries which formed parts of former Soviet Union include inter-alia, conclusion of new framework trade agreements substituting rupee payment trade by trade in freely convertible currencies, countertrade, conclusion of new and more extensive inter-banking arrangements, proposal to set up Joint Venture Banks, exchange of commercial visits, opening of new diplomatic missions, and trade representations, extension of credits, emphasis on promotion of joint ventures, encouragement to and promotion of direct business level contacts, development of transport and transit routes, and intensification of economic cooperation such as through training, provision of expertise and consultancy services etc.

Increase in Prices of Coffee

703. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for the sudden increase in the prices of raw coffee and blended powder sold in the domestic market; and

(b) what are the steps taken by Government to bring the prices under con-